

Message Text

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SUBJ: CONGRESS PRESIDENT SHARMA'S REMARKS ON FOREIGN
POLICY DURING AICC DELHI MEETING

1. FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF FOREIGN POLICY THEMES
ADDRESSED BY CONGRESS PRESIDENT SHANKAR DAYAL SHARMA
IN THE PREPARED TEXT OF THE SPEECH OPENING THE JULY 19-21
SESSION OF THE ALL-INDIA CONGRESS COMMITTEE (AICC)
MEETING IN NEW DELHI. MRS. GANDHI AND OTHER HIGH LEVEL
CABINET MEMBERS WERE IN ATTENDANCE AT THE OPENING SESSION.

2. DETENTE: SHARMA PRAISED THE "GROWING DETENTE" BETWEEN
THE USA AND USSR AS REVEALED BY THE THIRD USA-USSR
SUMMIT AT MOSCOW RECENTLY DURING PRESIDENT NIXON'S VISIT
TO THE USSR," AND WISHED "THE DETENTE PROCESS GOD-SPEED
SINCE GROWING UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THESE GREAT POWERS
CANNOT BUT CONTRIBUTE TO WORLD STABILITY AND PEACE".

3. INDO-US RELATIONS: HE CHARACTERIZED "THE GROWING
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SPIRIT OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN INDIA AND THE USA" AS "PAR-

TICULARLY WELCOME" AND ADDED THAT "WE HOPE THAT DR. KISSINGER'S VISIT TO DELHI IN (THE) COMING MONTHS WILL LEAD TO MORE POSITIVE AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL DEVELOPMENTS."

4. INDO-USSR RELATIONS: SHARMA DESCRIBED USSR AND THE SOCIALIST NATIONS AS "RELIABLE AND UNDERSTANDING FRIENDS". HE ALSO REGRETTED THAT CHINA HAS "SPURNED OUR HAND OF FRIENDSHIP", BUT COMMENTED THAT INDIA WISHES "THE CHINESE PEOPLE ALL THE BEST AND WE HAVE PATIENCE ENOUGH TO WAIT TILL PEKING SEES THE FUTILITY OF ITS ATTITUDE OF HOSTILITY AND SUSPICION."

5. INDO-PAKISTAN RELATIONS: HE REGRETTED "THE FAILURE OF ALL OF OUR EFFORTS TO DEVELOP FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN," STATED THAT BHUTTO'S "ANTICS" (INCLUDING EFFORTS TO BOLSTER HIS "SHAKY" INTERNAL POSITION THROUGH ANTI-INDIA POSTURING) HAD "ASSUMED DANGEROUS PROPORTIONS"; AND EMPHASIZED THAT "IF EVER PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO CHOOSES TO CHANGE HIS WAYS, HE WILL NOT FIND INDIA WANTING."

6. CYPRUS: IN HIS PREPARED TEXT SHARMA SAID THE CYPRUS COUP REPRESENTED "YET ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO SUBVERT DEMOCRACY BY FASCIST FORCES OF REACTION AND BACKWARDNESS." HE NOT ONLY ESPOUSED SUPPORT TO ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS BUT ALSO COMPARED THE CYPRUS CRISIS WITH CHILE. IN HIS ORAL EXTEMPORANEOUS COMMENTS TO THE 750 AICC DELEGATES, HE ADDED (SHADES OF MRS. GANDHI'S COMMENTS LAST FALL) THAT INDIANS NEEDED TO STAY ALERT TO ENSURE THAT "WHAT HAPPENED" IN CHILE AND CYPRUS DOES NOT HAPPEN IN INDIA.

9. INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION: THE CONGRESS PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS ON THIS TOPIC CAME AT THE END OF HIS SPEECH. IN THE WRITTEN TEXT, HE CONGRATULATED THE INDIAN SCIENTISTS INVOLVED IN THE TEST AND WISHED THEM "GREATER SUCCESS IN THEIR WORK IN (THE) FUTURE." IN HIS EXTEMPORANEOUS STATEMENTS, HE NOTED THAT THE BLAST WAS AN ILLUSTRATION OF INDIA'S PROGRESS; THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CRITICISM OF ENGLAND, CHINA, THE USSR AND FRANCE WHEN THEY RECENTLY TESTED; AND THAT CRITICISM FROM "SOME COUNTRIES" HAD NATURALLY COME AS "NO SURPRISE" TO INDIA.

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